GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:333
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2009
NATIONAL TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL
Rana Shri Kashi Ram

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the suggestions given by the National Tourism Advisory Council in this year's meeting;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken on the said suggestions so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. KANTI SINGH)

(a), (b) and (c): In the latest meeting of the National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC) held on 15.12.2008,suggestions made to boost the tourism industry in the aftermath of global economic slowdown and terrorist attacks in Mumbai related to increase in incentives for the travel trade, promotion of Meetings,Incentives,Conventions,Exhibitions (MICE) tourism and domestic travel in the country,inviting trade and media representatives to Mumbai and other parts of the country for familiarization tours, easing of norms for External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) for hotel sector, setting up of Tourist Police by the State/ UT Governments,ensuring smoother and seamless travel across states,rationalization of luxury tax, passenger tax, road tax and other state taxes, etc.

As a follow up, the Ministry of Tourism has announced various promotional schemes like Visit India Year 2009, liberalization of Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme for overseas marketing, introduction of MDA scheme for the promotion of domestic and MICE tourism and allowing External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) for the construction of hotels,so as to increase the tourist inflow in the country.

The development and promotion of tourism, including rationalization of luxury tax,passenger and road tax,are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.However,the Ministry of Tourism had written to the State Governments on 9th January,2009 to give due consideration on these issues and also on seamless travel and safety & security of tourists in order to provide relief to tourism sector in the face of global financial crisis that is affecting the tourism sector adversely.